

## BOOK REVIEW

STEVE HUDDLESTON AND PAMELA CRAWFORD. 2009. **Easy Gardens for North Central Texas**. (ISBN: 978-0971222083, pbk.). Easy Color Publishing, 1353 Riverstone Parkway, Suite 120-372, Canton, Georgia 30114, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.colorgardenpublishing.com, 561-371-2719). \$24.95, 312 pp., color throughout, 8.5" × 11".

*From the Publisher:* "This groundbreaking book shows beginners and experienced gardeners alike how to create gorgeous gardens with the easiest, colorful, low water plants that north central Texas has to offer. It features over 1000 spectacular photos of annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees that thrive with little or no irrigation and only require minutes of care per year—plants that can breeze through hot, humid, Texas summers while attracting butterflies, birds and hummingbirds. Shop for plants like a pro by taking the book with you to garden centers and checking out the latest information on the newest plants around from people who have grown them! Create traffic-stopping color combinations from the over 150 easy examples shown. The book is extremely easy to follow, with thousands of color photographs, as well as many budget gardening tips. For Dallas/Fort Worth and 50 surrounding counties."

Written by the Senior Horticulturist at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, this book is nothing short of amazing and impressive. It is wonderful about stating the origin of each plant and went into much more detail about the plants than any book or gardening place could tell you. More than that, the pictures alone are worth the price. They show you which plants work well in Texas with few disease or pest issues, and also those that work well together. Every page concerning a specific plant has amazing close-ups of the plant and extreme detail on its maintenance, how to get cuttings to create new plants, and what to do in the winter to keep it going. However, these instructions are not long, wordy, pages but easy bullet points for simple use.

The book is divided into 5 sections: the basics, annuals, perennials, shrubs and vines, and trees. Within every section there is a two page spread for each flower/plant type they are describing (with great identifying photos). The book advises on plant habitat (U.S. zone, type of soil, & amount of light), how often to water, common pest problems, and treatment methods. It also describes when to plant, when to prune and fertilize. For a novice, it is an excellent resource and great for those who want to do it themselves.

If you are debating between Neil Sperry's book and this book, I would recommend this one. Everything you need to know about any particular plant is right there on a two page spread. You don't have to hunt around the book. Neil Sperry's book probably has more types of plants in it but the descriptions and care information are more detailed and easier to follow in this book. The only criticism I have is that I am afraid that the binding of the book will not withstand repeated usage. A lay-flat binding would have been much preferred by this reader.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to do their own gardening but isn't sure how to go about it. With this book, I don't think you can go wrong.

—Gary L. Jennings, Librarian,

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## BOOKS RECEIVED/REVIEWS FORTHCOMING

SUSAN M. GALATOWITSCH. 2012. **Ecological Restoration**. (ISBN: 978-0-87893-607-6, hbk.). Sinauer Associates, 23 Plumtree Road, Sunderland, Massachusetts 01375, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.sinauer.com). \$89.95, 630 pp., color figures, graphs, tables, 7.25" × 9.25".